

## CAMPERS!

### ***You're In Bear Country***

***Black bears are wild animals — keep them away from your campsite!***



**Maintain a clean campsite.** Put *all* food and cooking gear away at night or when you leave your campsite.

**Put food scraps and fat drippings in closed containers,** not in the campfire.

**Don't cook or eat in your tent.** Keep food and cooking gear separate from your sleeping area.

**Store your food and cooking gear securely,** either in a closed vehicle or an airtight bear-resistant container. Coolers are not bear-resistant.

**Or, hang your food** at least 10 feet off the ground and five feet out on a limb that will not support a bear's weight.

**If a bear does not immediately leave after seeing you, food smells may be encouraging it to stay.** Place food items inside a vehicle or building. Stay in a vehicle or building until the bear wanders away.

**Never feed bears. Ever.**



***Learn to  
live with bears!***

## HIKERS!

### ***You're In Bear Country***



***Normal trail noise will alert bears to your presence and prompt them to move without being noticed. But, what should you do or know if you encounter a black bear on the trail?***

**Keep your distance.** If you find yourself close to a bear, talk to it in a calm voice and slowly back away.

**Know that black bears are cautious of people and usually will leave the area, even when confronted.** Black bears rarely attack humans.

**Be aware that black bears will sometimes "bluff charge"** when cornered, threatened, or when trying to steal food. **DON'T RUN** from a charging bear; speak calmly and slowly back away.

**Never feed bears. Ever.** Doing so creates bear behavior that threatens public safety and ultimately leads to the death of the bear.

***Learn to live with bears!***



***MassWildlife***

MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

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